



## CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** June 5, 2012

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

**Through:** Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager

**From:** Donald F. Greeley, Director, Water Management  
Jerry Morrone, Engineering Supervisor, Water Management

**Subject:** Contract SR-54: Utility Easement Maintenance, Mowing and Hand Cutting Evaluation of Additional References

### Executive Summary

The Department of Water Management received bids for mowing, maintenance and hand cutting services in existing water and sewer easements. The Recommendation of Award of this contract to the firm Bushhog America, Inc. was reviewed by City Council at the May 24<sup>th</sup> Council Work Session. Based on this review, Council has requested the Department of Water Management to review additional references provided by TruGreen Landcare and re-evaluate its Recommendation of Award to Bushhog America, Inc.

The Department of Water Management attempted to contact additional references provided by TruGreen Landcare to evaluate additional relevant work. Unfortunately, several references have been unresponsive. Furthermore, the scope of other work that was provided has not been sufficiently equal in terms of type and quantity. Accordingly, the Department of Water Management has not received enough new supportive information to recommend award of this contract to TruGreen Landcare.

### Initial Bid Review

Addendum #2 to the initial bid requires the Contractor to provide references for three similar projects in the last five years and whose project Superintendent has also completed three projects of a similar type in the last five years. Examples of similar projects included 800,000LF of easement or ROW mowing and hand cutting and mowing and clearing contracts of at least \$400,000/year for at least two years. The project references TruGreen LandCare provided are as follows:

- RDU Airport – This project involves the maintenance of planted flower beds and lawns areas as well as the annual clearing of a flight approach area. While there is some very limited clearing involved, the majority of this project is landscaping and is not applicable to the project bid.
- Governors Club HOA – This project involves the maintenance of common areas and flower beds for a Homeowners Association. This type of experience is incompatible with the cross-country utility easement mowing and clearing that will be required.
- Carolina Preserve – This project involves the maintenance of common areas and flower beds for a Homeowners Association. This type of experience is incompatible with the cross-country utility easement mowing and clearing that will be required.

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- Brier Creek HOA – This project involves the maintenance of common areas and flower beds for a Homeowners Association. This type of experience is incompatible with the cross-country utility easement mowing and clearing that will be required.

### **Additional References**

Based on comments made by TruGreen Landcare at the May 24<sup>th</sup> Council Work Session, City Council granted TruGreen Landcare the opportunity to provide additional references that are more applicable to the proposed scope of work. TruGreen Landcare provided these references along with a brief description of the scope of work for each via e-mail on May 30, 2012. As of the writing of this memo, the following is the status of the Department's review of each additional reference provided:

- Quantico Marine Base – Multiple phone calls have yet to be returned. The scope of work indicates some utility easement clearing, but how much has not been confirmed.
- Gwinnett County, GA – Awaiting a return phone call. The scope of work provided indicates no easement maintenance experience associated with this contract.
- Fort Hood Army Base – Invalid phone number provided with reference, awaiting replacement number from TruGreen Landcare. The scope provided indicates some easement clearing, but how much has not been confirmed.
- Peachtree City, GA – Conversation with City's contract manager indicates all work was mowing rights-of-way and maintaining subdivision entrances. No utility easement maintenance work was performed in this contract.
- Memphis Shelby County Airport - Awaiting a return phone call. The scope of work provided indicates no easement maintenance experience associated with this contract.

### **Recommendation**

None of the references provided with the initial bid show easement maintenance experience. The project references provided also demonstrate little easement maintenance experience. It appears based on the information provided by TruGreen LandCare that the majority of their work experience is in the maintenance of landscaping and the mowing of Rights-of-Way.

This experience is incompatible with the scope of work to be performed under this contract. This contract will require mowing areas that are not routinely mowed and are frequently inaccessible by car or truck. This mowing will also require frequent traversing of private property and interaction with multiple property owners. The references provided by TruGreen Landcare do not demonstrate any of these necessary capabilities.